

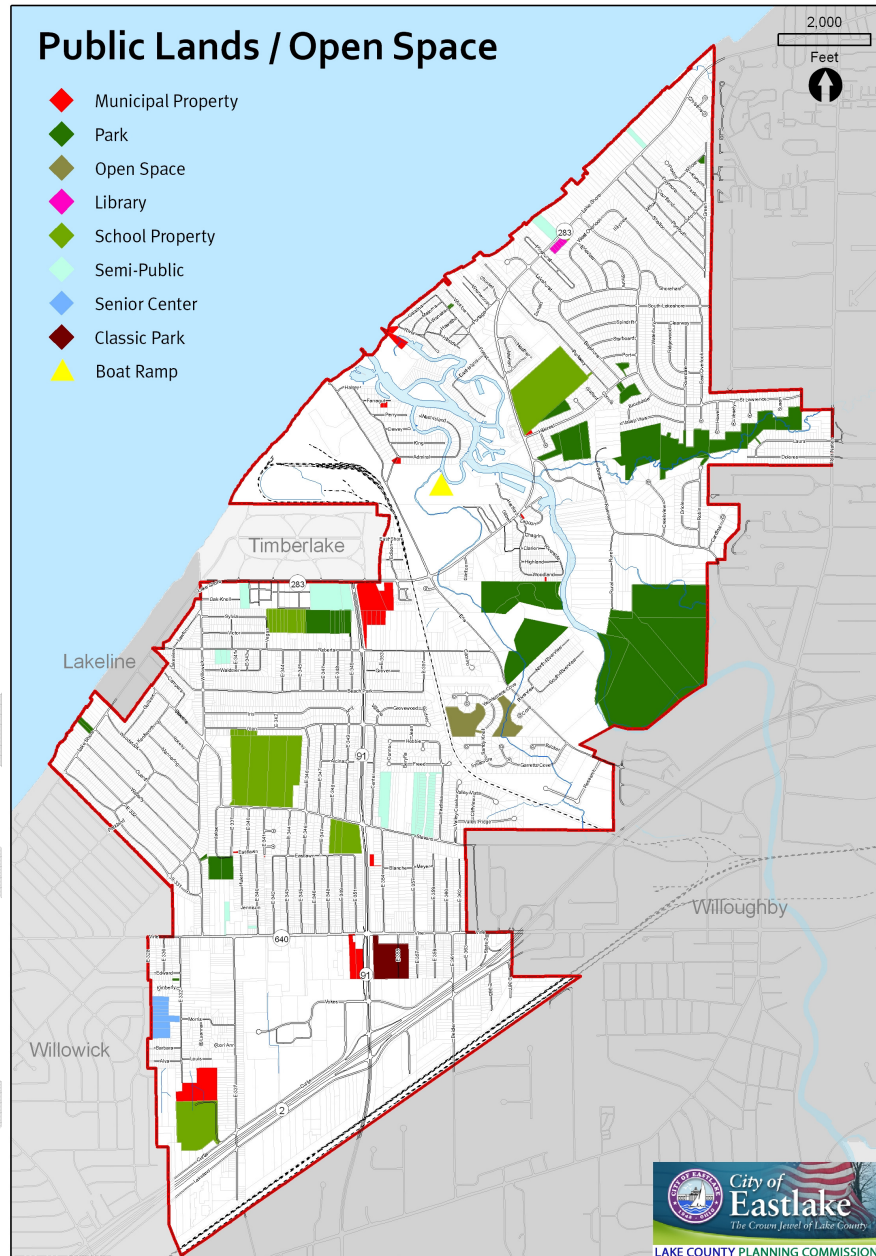
9 Public Facilities

9.1 Introduction

Eastlake City, like many post WWII communities, does have the same level of amenities as more densely populated urban and suburban areas. This chapter will discuss the public facilities, parks and safety forces that exist in the City of Eastlake. Just like other post war communities, there is a lot of facility sharing between the local school district and the city. The line between school property and city property becomes very hazy.

The intent of the Public Facilities element is to ensure that schools, parks, public safety facilities, community centers, and other government-provided amenities continue to meet, if not exceed, the needs of city residents and visitors, contribute positively to enhancing the overall quality of life of the city.

Map 9.1: Public Lands



9.2 Schools

Eastlake City is part of the Willoughby Eastlake City School District (olive green parcels on previous Map 9.1). Willoughby Eastlake City Schools serves students from Willoughby, Eastlake, Lakeline, Timberlake, Willowick, Willoughby Hills, and part of Waite Hill Village.

The school district has two high schools, a technical high school, three middle schools, seven elementary schools and pre-school. One of the high schools, one middle school, three elementary schools and the pre-school are located in Eastlake.

The three elementary schools located in Eastlake are Washington, 503 Vegas Drive, Jefferson, 35980 Lake Shore Blvd, and Longfellow, 35200 Stevens Blvd. The 2007-08 enrollments for each of the elementary schools are as follows: Washington (521 students), Jefferson (480 students) and Longfellow (399 students).

Students attend grades six through eight at either Eastlake Middle School, Willoughby Middle School or Willowick Middle School. Most Eastlake residents would attend Eastlake Middle with a smaller group attending Willowick Middle. Eastlake Middle School is the only middle school located in Eastlake and it has 453 students.

High school students would attend either Eastlake North High School or Willoughby South High School for grades 9 through 12. Eastlake North High School is located in the City of Eastlake and most students from Eastlake attend this high school. The enrollment for 2007-08 was 1,585 students.

Willoughby-Eastlake also currently owns the building and land where the former JFK Center is located. The Senior Center is located in a former elementary school building. The Willoughby Eastlake School's Transportation Center is also located in the City of Eastlake.

The Future Expansion of Schools

Throughout the United States, and particularly in Ohio where an ambitious school construction program is underway, many school districts are looking to have multiple schools on one site. This way the schools could share outdoor facilities, tracks, playgrounds, etc. They could also be attached to one another by kitchens and mechanical systems. In some ways, the Willoughby Eastlake School District is ahead of the curve on this issue. Currently, they have a school, Royalview Elementary and Willowick Middle School that are attached to one another and both the Willoughby Middle/South High School site, Eastlake Middle/Jefferson Elementary site and the North High School/Wee Care Pre-school site have multiple buildings on them.

The Willoughby Eastlake Schools are in a good position if the community decided to build new schools. The School District owns tracts of land that are between 25 acres and 70 acres in key locations.

Table 9.1 Facilities

<i>School Facility</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Eastlake North School/Jefferson Elem.	51.5
Eastlake Middle School	35.77
Longfellow Elementary	10.12
Washington Elementary	9.27
JFK Senior Center	9.13
Transportation Center	14.24

9.3 Parks and Open Space

The City of Eastlake owns six parks with a total of 83.7 acres of park land (Table 9.2). The recreation department also operate parks, fields or programs on three additional openspace areas covering an additional 37.17 acres of land.

The Willoughby-Eastlake School district owns 115.76 acres of land that have schools and athletic fields (Table 9.3). Many of the city's park lands are adjacent to school district land. The apparent property lines are non-existent so large tracts of open space are formed.

The Lake Metroparks also has the Chagrin River Park located in Eastlake, and in Willoughby. There are 132.2 acres of regionally managed park land in Eastlake.

Table 9.2 Parks

<i>Park</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Bruce Yee Field	11.71
Central Park	9.8
Eastlake Gardens	48.18
Jakse Park & Houston Fisher Pool	5.98
North High Fields	14.13*
Quentin Road Park	1.28
Surfside Park	2.74
Cpl. David Daugherty Park	0.34
Woodland Park	13.4**
Zimmerman Fields	9.64*
Land Adjacent to Eastlake Middle	3.7

** Fields are located on land own by Willoughby Eastlake Board of Education*

*** Fields, dog park & community gardens are located on land owned by CEI.*

Table 9.3 Recreational land (WE Schools)

<i>School Property Name</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
JFK Senior Center	9.13
Longfellow	11.4
North High	51.95*
Washington	7.51
Eastlake Middle/Jefferson	35.77*

** Fields are used by City Recreation*

National and state park and recreation organizations and individual governmental agencies have established a varying range of definitions and standards including park type, size, access requirements, and site development guidelines.

The standard derived from early studies of park acreages located within urban areas was the expression of acres of parkland per person. Over time, six to ten acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents – mini-parks and tot lots, neighborhood parks, and community parks, not nature preserves, undeveloped parks, school grounds, private open space or school grounds – came to be the accepted standard recommended by the National Parks and Recreation Association. This ratio is used by a majority of communities in the United States.

According to national standards, with a population of about 20,000 residents, there should be a minimum of 250 acres of developed parkland in the community. Eastlake City has deficiency in the amount of neighborhood parks and a surplus in community parks in the recommended amount of parkland for a community. Using the standards set forth in Table

9.4, the city has adequate park facilities for the population when the city, school board and Lake Metropark owned areas are combined.

Table 9.4 Classification and minimum park area requirements

<i>Park type</i>	<i>Area/1000 residents</i>	<i>Size of park</i>	<i>Service radius</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<u>Mini park</u> Designed to provide recreational opportunities for a small area in a neighborhood. Typically designed for young children, however in some cases it may be designed for aesthetic purposes.	1 ac	0.5 to 1 ac	0.25 to 0.5 mi	Eastlake has 2 mini parks.
<u>Neighborhood park</u> Designed to serve recreational needs of children 6-15 years of age, as well as adults, pre-schoolers, and seniors. Typically includes family picnic areas, unlighted open turf areas for informal sports, and play equipment. Lighted athletic fields would not be included.	3 ac	2 to 14 ac	0.25 to 0.75 mi	Eastlake has 4 neighborhood parks.
<u>Community park</u> Designed to serve a wide variety of needs for youths and adults in both active and passive recreation. Facilities for sports fields (lighted when appropriate), open turf areas, playgrounds, picnic areas, and off-street parking. Should include restrooms and related facilities. May include a community center. Components of neighborhood parks and mini-parks should be included in the community park.	6 ac	12 to 50 ac	1 to 2 mi	Eastlake has 4 community parks.
<u>Regional park</u> Open space areas characterized by significant natural resources that provide passive recreation for nearby residents and the surrounding metropolitan area. Small portions of a regional park might be allocated to fulfill neighborhood park requirements.	15 ac	100 ac	Lake County, eastern Cuyahoga County	Both Chagrin River Park and Eastlake Gardens serve this purpose
<u>Conservancy / open space area</u> Land kept mostly in its natural state. Used to preserve natural areas such as riparian zones, bluffs, wetlands and other lands of recreational and scenic interest. May also include areas devoted to preservation of historic or cultural resources. Could include smaller portions of the area needed to satisfy local neighborhood recreational needs.	n/a	Sufficient to provide or preserve the resource	Northeast Ohio	Headlands Nature Preserve functions as a regional park.

Table 9.5 Active Recreational Facility Inventory and Recommended Requirements

<i>Park/facility type</i>	<i>Target park/facility size</i>	<i>Existing assets</i>	<i>Year 2000 minimum requirements</i>	<i>Surplus Deficiency</i>
Neighborhood park (including acreage for mini-parks)	4-12 ac; 4 ac/1,000 residents	69.02 ac	81.02 ac	-12 ac
Community park	20-50 ac; 6 ac/1,000 residents	178.42 ac	121.53 ac	+56 ac
Tennis courts*	1:2,500 residents	9	8	+1
Basketball courts	1:5,000 residents	12	4	+8
Volleyball courts	1:20,000 residents	1	1	0
Baseball diamond	1:5,000 residents	9	4	+5
Softball diamond	1:5,000 residents	9	4	+5
Soccer/football fields	1:5,000 residents	5	4	+1
Swimming pool	1:20,000 residents	1	1	0
• mile running track	1:20,000 residents	0	1	-1
Handball/racquetball court*	1:20,000 residents	0	1	-1
Dog park	2-5 ac/0.8-2.0 ac; 1:25,000 residents	1	1	0

* Ratio may be decreased due to the declining popularity of racquet sports.

** Assumes population of 10,000 and no annexation of surrounding areas.

Acquiring New Parkland

The city is well served in regards to parkland and recreational facilities. Acquiring new parkland should concentrate on conservancy /open space areas, especially in the Chagrin River corridor. The City, along with other conservation partners, should focus on linking existing natural assests.

The Lake Erie Balance Growth Program recommends the city be divided in Primary Development Areas (PDA) and Primary Conservation Areas (PCA). The Chagrin River Corridor has been designated as a PCA. The PCA locations reflect areas that are existing parks and protected properties and also include sensitive slopes, streams, floodplains, and wetlands.

The City should work to link the Chagrin River Park to Lake Erie, potentially partnering with the City of



Willoughby. The Lake County Coastal Plan also recommends the preservation of the Chagrin River islands and increased public access to the river and the lake. In addition, the scenic areas along Lake Erie, the floodway of the Chagrin River, are also in the PCA.

State and federal grants may be available to help fund the acquisition of parkland and conservation areas. The city should use every opportunity it has to find and acquire funding for new parkland where appropriate. Priority will be given to those projects that exhibit multi-jurisdictional cooperation and those that provide public access to waterfront features.

9.4 Public Safety

Fire Department

Fire protection in Eastlake is provided by the Eastlake Fire Department, which also serves Timberlake and Lakeline. The fire station is located at the intersection of SR 91 and Lake Shore Blvd., next door to the City Hall. The fire department has been averaging 2,500 calls a year and their response time average is four minutes. The Fire District has one chief, three battalion chiefs, three lieutenants and 21 firefighters. They are divided up into three shifts of a battalion chief, a lieutenant and seven firefighters. Their minimum manpower per shift is seven people. There is also a full time fire marshal.

Apparatus at the fire station includes three ambulances, heavy rescue squad, two 2000 gallon a minute engines, one 100 foot aerial platform, one technical rescue vehicle (confined space/trench rescue), two dive boats for swift water and dive rescue, utility tool vehicle, command vehicle, and three cars (one for the chief, one for fire marshal and one for the station).

Police Protection

Police protection in Eastlake is provided by a staff of 60 patrol officers (33 full/ 27 part-time) and one full-time chief of police. Four of these officers serve as sergeants and five serve as lieutenants. The City also has six dispatchers, two records clerks, two secretaries, two victim advocates, custodian, four school crossing guards and five back-up school crossing guards. The Eastlake Police Department also provides police protection to the Village of Lakeline.

The Police Department runs both motorcycle and bicycle patrols. One of their officers is assigned as school resource officer. The specialized services, such as a SWAT team is provided by West Lake County SWAT Team which serves Willoughby, Willoughby Hills, Wickliffe, Willowick, Waite Hill and Eastlake and the Lake County Sheriff Department provides a bomb squad. Eastlake is also served by the Lake County Crime Lab, a division of the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. The Lake County Crime Lab is funded by a countywide tax levy. Most traffic violations and minor misdemeanor citations are tried in a Mayor's Court. Other Court cases are tried in Willoughby Municipal Court or the Lake County Common Pleas Court.

The Eastlake Police runs various community education programs including, D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education and Training), Civilian Police Academy, Eddie the Eagle Gun Safety Program, Police Athletic League and Programs and Police Cadet Program.

9.5 City Government

11.6 acres of land at the corner of State Route 91 and Lake Shore Blvd. are occupied by city facilities. These facilities include the city hall, which was built in 1994, the fire station, which was built in 1976, the police station, which was built in 1967 and the service garage, which was built in 1969. There is also a post office on the property, which was built in 1998, and the Boulevard of 500 Flags. There is land available to build additional facilities in the future.

9.6 Community and Senior Centers

The Eastlake JFK Senior Center is located on East 332nd Street, south of Vine Street, near the Willowick border. The Senior Center was moved from its former location by Willoughby Eastlake School Transportation Center to this former elementary school location in 2002. Eastlake also has a community Center that was built in 1974 located on the Central Park. This facility is located north of Roberts Road and is near the City Hall and other community facilities.